

Prince Butler's

QUERICAL DEMONSTRATIONS

Relating to

The East-India Trade.

Part II.

1. **S**ince some very good Friends, of both *Old and New Stocks*, are endeavouring, by all honest ways, together, to joyn, and in order thereto, are *Writing, Pleading, and Printing* their Cases; and since *Losers* have always the Liberty to speak, why may not I as well *Print and Plead* my Case; For I am sure I have as much, *may more reason* to do it than they?
2. If these two contending *Stocks* be made one, and the *English Manufacturers* Case be not taken some care of, I can, without *Star-gazing*, plainly foresee, That they, and some other *Folks*, soon *Ruin'd* will be; And therefore pray, Mind what I say; If not for their sakes, for your own, be pleas'd to take care on't.
3. Is it not much more demonstrable, That the *East-India Trade* is of greater advantage to *England* than 'twas two Years ago; For since that time, it has in a great measure *Ruined the Canterbury Silk Trade*, and obliged most of the *London Silk Weavers, Throwsters, &c.* to give over their several Trades and Employments?
4. Will not this be of great Advantage to all the *Clothing Counties* in *England*, because some of these poor People, rather than starve, are gone to *Ireland*, and set up Trade there; others fall'n to *Comb, Card, and Spin*; make *Cloths, Stuffs and Serges*; who being at the Principal Market, can make and sell them as well, or better, than the Country Weaver and Clothier can do?
5. Does not Sir *Jos. Child*, who is well known to be Skilful in Trade, prove plainly, That the *Discourse of East-India Trade* ought to be greatly Encouraged, when he tells us in Print, That the *Expence of Trade of Foreign Commodities, especially Foreign Manufactures, is the worst Expence a Nation can be inclinable to, and ought to be prevented as much as possible*? The Preface.
6. Has not the Author of the Essay on the *E. India Trade*, as sufficiently proved it Gainful, not only to us, but all *Europe*, when he tells us, *They had been Richer by a full Third than they now are, if that Trade had never been Discovered or Undertaken; and that it bears hard only upon those Countries that Consume those Commodities*? Essay on the East-India Trade page 14.
7. Is it not plain, That it bears not hard upon *England*, since it could never be proved (and I challenge any now to do it) That we Consume at *Home, in Ireland, or our Plantations*, above nine parts in ten: Or that in *Foreign Parts* (except our *Plantations, &c.*) there are Consumed above one eighth part of the *Wrought Silks, Bengals, and Printed Callicoes*?
8. Since 'tis allowed this Trade is hurtful to *Europe*, and all are agreed in a General Peace, What if they should agree to Banish it out of all their Dominions? But if not, Why should we restrain any part, Since we have nothing from thence of *solid Use*, (but) *Materials for Luxury, and perishable Commodities, for our Gold and Silver, which is there buried*, as the same Author tells us? Page 12.
9. Is it not better we should be at four or five hundred thousand Pounds Charge per An. for *Indian Vanities*, having such plenty of Money, than for the sake of employing our own Poor, upon our own *Wooll*, disoblige several *Maid*s and their *Mistresses*, who would then be at a loss how to Dress up themselves, their *Chambers, Parlours, and Closets*?
10. Is it not our Interest (as the Essayer tells us) to wear these *Indian Manufactures*, because they would soon bring down the price of our own so low, *That we may Export them to all Foreign Markets, and be able to under sell all Nations*; For (surely) they neither can, or will ever think of falling in their Prices as we do. Page 29.
11. Or if they should, rather than leave off and starve, sell their Commodities as cheap as we, Pray what shall we get by this *Learned Advice*, since, after all, our Reducing the *Indian*, that Work for a Penny a Day, will outdo us all, unless we're resolv'd to Work as Cheap, or Cheaper than they?
12. Will not the Falling the Prices reduce the Wages of the Poor, and by that means make the Nation grow Rich, since Sir *Jos. Child* has very well observed, *That where ever Wages are high, throughout the whole World, it is an infallible Evidence of the Riches of that Country; And where Wages for Labour runs low, 'tis a proof of the Poverty of that Place*? Preface.
13. But if bringing down the Prices will be such an Advantage, Why may we not as well send for the *Corn* we spend to the *East Country*, for theirs is much cheaper than ours? And then we may send our own *Corn* with our own *Cloth, &c.* to seek Abroad for a Market; Would not this soon Raise the Value of all the *Rents and Lands* in *England*?
14. And to save yet the more, employ the *Dutch Shipping*, for they always Sail much cheaper than we do, and then we may send our own *Ships* to all *Foreign Nations*, that either want, or will hire them, or else save the Building of more, to the much greater Preservation of both our *Seamen and Timber*?
15. And if nought but cheap Working will vend our Commodities, let's to't in good earnest, *Page 27.* and Employ the *Twelve hundred Thousand* which the Essay tells us receives *Alms*, which by the way is a very great Number, and shews how much we want the poor *Indians* to Work for us, and they sure will

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will bring down the Prices so low, that when our Money is gone, the *Indians* will take some *Stuffs* for their *Callicoes*.

16. What if the *Landed Men* should apprehend, that this would *Beggar* their *Tenants*, and *Fall* all their *Rents*, Can't we by another *Essay*, with *Rhetorical Flourishes*, amuse them, and then by *imaginary*, or *fabulous* Computation, &c. prove this cannot be; Or that 'tis our *Interest* it should be so, rather than restrain the *East-India Trade*?

17. Has not this Nation been great *Gainers* for many Years by the use of *Muslings* and *Callicoes*, which are worn in the room of *German Linnens*, *Silesia Cambricks*, and *Lawns*? For the first we have had for our *Money* and *Bullion*: The last were the Return of our own *Woollen Manufactures*, which now we can keep for our own use at *Home*.

18. Were not the *Silesians* very great *Fools*, when we would not take off their *Cambricks* and *Lawns*, to set up the making of *Woollen*, with which they now supply both themselves and their *Neighbours*; Whereas we could yet have very well served them both for their *Money*? And may not some others soon follow such *foolish* Examples?

19. If the *Parliament* would be so kind as to take off the Duty from coarse *Callicoes*, which being from twenty to fifty *per Cent.* is a very great *Clog* upon them; We could then also soon beat them out of most of the rest of their *Linnens*, which might be as much more for the *Profit* and *Gain* of this Kingdom.

20. But if this will lessen the *Customs*, we're content they should double the Duties on all *Wrought Silks*; for they may well bear about 25 *per Cent.* And being such *Bulky Commodities*, sure none will Run them to save such small *Customs*, or the *Ladies* wear them when they'll be so dear: And will not this please the *Clamorous Silk Weavers*?

21. Or if they *complain* still, Can any one think the *Parliament* may not have some regard to so considerable a Company of *poor Manufacturers* as they are? When as, with no very great *difficulty*, they lately pass'd an Act for *Relief* and *Support* of the *Hair* and *Silk Button-Makers*?

22. If the *East India Company* had Imported these *Commodities*, would it not have been easier for these *Button Makers* to have gained their *Bill*? And since the *Parliament* have pass'd an Act in favour of the *Trimnings*, may they not in time do as much for the *Principal Parts* of the *Garments*?

23. And now to conclude: To your selves be so *kind*, These *Quericals mind*, For they are *design'd*, To inform all *Mankind*, So as *Truth* they may *find*, If not wilfully *Blind*: But whoso'er by private *Interest* is *sway'd*, Or *Money* have *paid*, To the *East-India Aid*, I am very much *afraid*, That for all I have *said*, They will me *upbraid*, And cry out I am *Mad*.

24. But if they do, I must tell them *plain*, I find in my *Brain*, So much *Sense* still remain, As the Cause I'll *maintain*, 'Gainst them and their *Train*: Therefore don't *disdain*, My *Querical Strain*, And I shall remain, Your *Friend* as *before*, To stand at your *Door*, To plead for the *Poor*, And have yet in *store*, Of such *Quericals more*, At least a whole *Score*: Which you may have when you please.



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